

## Correspondence.

## TEN HOURS THE STANDARD FOR A DAY'S LABOR IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Suggestions for the Improvement of Factory Conditions.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

For some time I have been thinking of writing something on the above subject, and after reading Rev. S. A. Baldwin's communication, copied from the Charlotte Observer, I decided to write at once. I have heard it asserted that our State abolished the whipping-post because it was barbarous. For my part I do not think it much more barbarous than to allow corporations to work their operatives from 6 a. m. till 7 at night with only a few minutes for rest at midday.

Just as 60 pounds is the standard for a bushel of wheat, or 56 pounds a bushel of corn, so I believe that 10 hours of actual labor should constitute a day's work. Even stout men and healthy women cannot help but break down under the present system in our cotton mills and other corporation work, much less children of tender age, of whom I will write further on.

Mr. Baldwin speaks of night work and says: "Since it has been started it cannot be stopped at once." I think that to adopt a 10 hour system would be a start in the right direction, or it would lessen the hours of labor and give more rest to those engaged in night work; I do not think it would be prudent to shut off night work at once.

The people of North Carolina are proud of the manufacturing industries of our State, and we should feel grateful to those who have invested their money in such enterprises, and in providing for comfort and convenience for their operatives, but this should be no plea for them to keep the laborers on their feet an unreasonable length of time. Those well ventilated and comfortable rooms does not keep the body from getting tired nor the constitution from breaking down.

I endorse the suggestion that mill men, operatives, and all who feel an interest in the welfare of humanity get together and agree upon a bill that will be of good to the greatest number.

I am not engaged in mill work, but I have relatives and many friends who are, and I feel it my duty to say a word for them.

I would suggest that every corporation among whose operatives are 20 children or more between the age of 6 and 12 years be required to erect on their premises, or convenient thereto, a school house or houses under the direction of the County Superintendent of Public Instruction, and that the County Superintendent shall employ a teacher to teach said children, and the corporation to pay said teacher and furnish the necessary books.

Further, that each child between 6 and 12 shall be compelled by law to attend said school.

And it should be the duty of all such children who have such advantages afforded them to labor for said corporation 5 hours in the afternoon of each day the mill runs, and the parents of such children shall not receive any pay for the labor of their children for the said time. Provided the child shall not be allowed to work for the corporation during the time the common school is in session. Neither is the corporation to pay for books or tuition during this period, but each child shall draw its portion of the public school fund.

The idea of working children from 6 in the morning till 7 at night is so unreasonable that I will not waste time nor breath to discuss it. But I am in favor of every child being taught to labor as well as to read, write, &c., and I further believe that working a part of each day and help pay for their tuition will be the means of implanting industrial habits in the minds of the rising generation. Either benefits the other. It gives taste for study and taste for work.

I presume if this appears in print, it will bring down a storm of criticism upon me by the mill men and opponents of the 10 hour system, but if I cannot meet their arguments, I guess I can bear it for the sake of humanity.

J. A. CAUBLE.

Stanly Co., N. C.

The noblest motive is the public good.—Virgil.

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## THE WORKINGS OF A REFORM SCHOOL.

Dr. Alexander Tells What He Learned of the Louisville Reformatory—He Urges North Carolina to Follow Kentucky's Wise Example.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

The question of gravest import that will come up before the next Legislature for discussion and action is that of the establishment of a Reform School for criminals of a tender age. There is scarcely a thinking man in the State but will say at once but little is to be hoped for in the way of reformation when a boy of ten or fifteen years is confined in a common prison with hardened criminals.

I wish to call attention to the Reformatory School of the City of Louisville, Ky., as it fills my idea of a reform school—that is, it furnishes all the punishment that is due their crimes or offenses, and at the same time gives them an education, both mental and physical, if not superior to that provided by the State, at least equal to it.

At the Confederate re-union in Louisville last June, I was fortunately invited to spend my time at the Reform School of that city, or at least to make that my home while in attendance on the re-union. On Wednesday evening I was shown over the grounds and through the different buildings of this justly celebrated reformatory. It will require a separate description to give the reader a clear impression of the school and how it is carried on. In 1861 the various buildings, shops, grounds, &c., were in readiness; the superintendent, teachers, guards and all necessary attaches were employed ready to begin work; when the United States forces—without asking permission—took possession of the entire plant for hospital purposes for the Northern Army. Consequently all idea of a reformatory was abandoned till the autumn of 1865, when Mr. Caldwell was re-elected Superintendent. This was a very happy selection, for in the last thirty-five years they have had no reason to make a change; in fact, all the officers are well qualified for their positions.

The youthful criminals are all punished by the courts, and have a definite sentence, according to the nature of the crime and the age of the criminal. Both colors and sexes are confined here, but are kept entirely separate, but all under one government. Work is furnished for each class, according to age, sex, and general aptitude. A number of small children, who have no parents, or are to themselves without anyone to take care of them, are accorded room for humanity's sake.

When I entered the grounds of the school, I was met by a young lady, who proved to be a daughter of the Superintendent; she kindly invited us to go through all the different departments, for the 400 inmates. One large room contained several carloads of chairs, that had been sent there to be bottomed with cane, for which the chair factory paid the Reform School 5 cents each. This furnished work for the smaller children to do, which they handled very deftly. In another was a shop for all kinds of wood-work, such as making bureaus, bedsteads, wash-stands, &c. A steam engine furnishes all the power needed; a variety of pulleys are swung overhead, so as to be out of the way, connected with belts as may be desired. A blacksmith shop where all light kinds of work is done, is made for teaching how to do all kind of work in iron. A beautiful line of sculpture is here done in wood work, preliminary to having it done in marble. Etching on large plates of glass, 3x4 feet—the first work of the kind I ever saw; it is done with acids in a way that is difficult to describe, consequently I shall not attempt it. Every kind of work is done here in wood, iron, copper, tin, &c. Type setting and painting, and a fine school with the most improved seats and desks, and charts and globes and whatever is necessary to make an up-to-date school. There is in the tract of land belonging to the Reform School 80 acres; a large garden of vegetables, probably twenty acres, which is cultivated by the inmates.

To accommodate 400 inmates they have seven large buildings divided up into school rooms, work rooms, sleeping apartments, bathing pools and shower bath, cook rooms and dining rooms. Also a chapel to hold religious services, the only time and place where all the school are together. I noticed that one of the guards marshalled each section into the church, and had it seated; then

another section, until all were seated; and when services were done they would march out as they came in. Everything works like clock work. They do so much drilling every morning before breakfast; one-half to one hour seems to make them perfect in the various drills. They have an excellent brass band; 25 inmates compose it, and on extra occasions they wear the Confederate uniform. They are frequently employed to play in the city.

The officers have authority to administer punishment as occasion calls for it, but from my observation—I staid there from Wednesday till Monday—I neither saw nor heard of a single inmate being punished; but I noticed that the Superintendent was very strict with his subordinates.

The most important question for people to ask now is what will it cost? Will it pay to have our young criminals imprisoned to themselves, and educated not only in useful trades in after life, but well educated in books, in the arts and sciences?

Our only way to answer this important question is by knowing how it has paid in other States where Reformatory Schools have been tried.

It takes \$40,000 a year to run the Louisville Reformatory; and they have \$15,000 to \$20,000 for repairs and building new work shops, sleeping apartments, continually increasing the capacity of the school, employing extra teachers, guards, &c.

Now we will try to answer the question—will it pay? The Superintendent said that as far as he was able to follow his boys, a large number were lawyers, doctors, engineers, merchants, and teachers. One was a captain of a man-of-war in Manila Bay in the great naval battle with Spain.

It certainly has paid handsomely; and then to think of this great number of boys and girls, snatched from jails and States prisons where most of them would have gone, made into respectable citizens—many of them holding lucrative offices and offices of trust. We cannot say too much in favor of a school to reform young criminals. Such an institution would be worth more to North Carolina than we can estimate in dollars and cents. J. B. ALEXANDER, M. D. Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

## A CRYING NEED.

In the Homes of the Children the Elevating Influence of Good Literature is Needed—Without it the Schools Cannot do Their Best Work.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

It seems to be a weary task to convince the masses that the cultivation of the mind is essential under all circumstances, and especially in the country where there cannot be such close contact of mind to mind, as in towns and cities. But the improvement in mail facilities now puts the average farmer in the rural districts in close contact with the world generally if the farmer wishes to know what the world around him is doing.

Many farmers do not read, do not feel its importance, and consequently do not know how to impress its importance upon their children.

Perhaps I ought not to "tell tales out of school," but I visited a public school in our county a few days since, and I was more than ever impressed with the need of a better system of preparation for using the mind; under the circumstances existing in this school matter seemed to predominate over mind.

In a room 15x25 feet fifty children were assembled, and as I was informed by the faithful teacher, the school was not full that day, but I certainly saw no room for more. Benches such as I sat on in the old school house of fifty years ago were in use still in that house. A few seats had backs to them, but a large majority had no backs and some were only eight inches wide, so the verb "sit" for that and all such schools might be classed with the active verbs.

Most of these children were bright and cheery and advanced much more in their studies than one would suppose possible under existing circumstances. What these children might do if their surroundings were what they should be only the necessary changes would show.

Go into the homes of some of those children and you find no books except a Bible and some school books. As to news and current literature, one local newspaper, and no literary food for those children, on their return from their cramped condition at school.

Oh! for the time when the importance of mental culture will be felt in

all the homes of the "good Old North State."

We need not only four months public school in every district, but such surroundings in those schools and homes as will wake up mind and show its importance over the surroundings of those homes. We would wish to hope that there are not many communities where such disadvantages prevail as the one described, but we know there are others, and their number may be legion.

How can a farmer content himself to sit down at night with nothing to read, no food for thought, no plan for feeding the mind? With such neglect the young people are at a constant disadvantage.

If parents would put good literature in their homes for the use of their children, the time would be hastened when evils of many kinds would be driven away, and true intellectual progress would brighten the homes of our State. Mind would be recognized in the great race, and the visible things around us would be put under subjection to the higher, the invisible, part of our nature, and all physical duties would be rendered more easy and home work be a constant pleasure instead of doleful drudgery. D. L. Craven Co., N. C.

## CUMBERLAND ALLIANCE.

Notice is hereby given that the Cumberland County Farmers' Alliance will meet with Flea Hill Sub. at Flea Hill, instead of meeting at River Side. Meeting will be held January 10, 1901. D. D. BAIN, Sec'y.

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Lv New York, P. R. R.	1:00 pm	12:15 am
Lv Philadelphia, P. R. R.	3:20 pm	2:30 am
Lv Baltimore, P. R. R.	5:50 pm	9:34 am
Lv Washington, P. R. R.	7:00 pm	10:55 am
Lv Richmond, S. A. L. Ry.	10:40 am	2:40 pm
Lv Petersburg, " "	11:31 am	3:30 pm
Lv Ridgeway Jet., " "	1:55 am	5:52 pm
Lv Henderson, " "	2:30 am	6:20 pm
Lv Raleigh, " "	7:30 am	7:30 pm
Lv Southern Pines, " "	5:36 am	9:35 pm
Lv Hamlet, " "	6:25 am	10:27 pm
Lv Columbia, " "	5:40 am	12:55 am
Lv Savannah, " "	12:12 pm	5:00 am
Lv Jacksonville, " "	3:50 pm	9:10 am
Lv Tampa, " "	6:30 am	5:30 pm
	No. 46	No. 41
Ar Charlotte, " "	9:21 am	10:20 pm
Lv Chester, " "	9:48 am	1:20 pm
Lv Greenwood, " "	11:22 am	1:07 am
Lv Athens, " "	2:08 pm	1:35 pm
Ar Atlanta, " "	4:15 pm	6:05 am
Ar Augusta, C. & W. C.	5:10 pm	.....
Lv New York, N. Y. & N. E.	9:40 am	1:00 pm
Lv Philadelphia, " "	10:20 am	11:30 pm
Lv New York, O. D. S. S. Co.	10:30 pm	.....
Lv Baltimore, B. & O. P.	9:20 pm	6:30 pm
Lv Washington, N. & W. S. B.	9:20 pm	9:30 am
Lv Portsmouth, S. A. L. Ry.	9:20 pm	9:30 am
Lv Weldon, " "	11:53 am	12:01 pm
Lv Ridgeway Jet., " "	12:52 am	1:20 pm
Lv Henderson, " "	1:19 am	2:13 pm
Lv Raleigh, " "	3:42 am	3:51 pm
Lv Southern Pines, " "	6:30 am	6:22 pm
Lv Hamlet, " "	6:30 am	7:30 pm
Ar Macon, C. of Ga.	7:20 pm	11:10 am
Ar Montgomery, A. & W. P.	9:20 pm	11:00 am
Ar Mobile, L. & N.	3:05 am	4:12 pm
Ar New Orleans, L. & N.	7:40 am	8:30 pm
Ar Nashville, N. C. & S. L.	6:40 am	6:55 pm
Ar Memphis, " "	4:00 pm	8:10 am

	Daily No. 40	Daily No. 38
Lv Memphis, N. C. & S. L.	12:45 pm	8:45 pm
Lv Nashville, " "	9:30 am	9:10 am
Lv New Orleans, L. & N.	7:45 pm	7:45 pm
Lv Mobile, N. & W. S. B.	12:20 am	12:20 am
Ar Montgomery, A. & W. P.	4:30 am	11:20 am
Lv Macon, C. of Ga.	8:00 am	4:20 pm
Lv Augusta, C. & W. C.	9:40 am	.....
Lv New York, N. Y. & N. E.	10:20 am	11:30 pm
Ar Athens, " "	2:52 pm	11:23 pm
Ar Greenwood, " "	4:56 pm	2:05 am
Ar Chester, " "	4:30 am	9:23 pm
Lv Charlotte, " "	7:00 pm	5:00 am
Lv Wilmington, " "	3:05 pm	.....
Lv Hamlet, " "	10:50 pm	9:08 am
Lv Southern Pines, " "	1:00 pm	11:25 am
Ar Henderson, " "	2:30 am	1:20 pm
Lv Ridgeway Jet., " "	3:10 am	2:05 pm
Lv Richmond, " "	5:15 am	5:40 pm
Ar Washington, P. R. R.	8:45 am	9:30 pm
Ar Baltimore, P. R. R.	10:08 am	1:35 pm
Ar Philadelphia, P. R. R.	12:30 pm	2:56 am
Ar New York, P. R. R.	3:08 pm	6:13 am
	No. 40	No. 38
Lv Ridgeway Jet. S. A. L. Ry.	7:00 am	4:40 pm
Lv Weldon, " "	4:30 am	3:23 pm
Ar Portsmouth, " "	7:00 am	5:50 pm
Ar Washington, N. & W. S. B.	7:00 am	7:00 am
Ar Baltimore, B. & O. P.	9:00 am	9:00 am
Ar New York, O. D. S. S. Co.	11:30 am	.....
Ar Philadelphia, N. Y. & N. E.	4:48 pm	.....
Ar New York, " "	8:38 pm	.....

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